Alaska Division of Elections – Ballot Counting System Testing and Security - 2006

The Director of Elections appoints Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board.   AS 15.10.180

The Regional Election Supervisors appoint Bi-Partisan Regional Accu-Vote Boards.   AS 15.20.900   6 AAC 25.030

The Regional Election Supervisors appoint Bi-Partisan Precinct Election Boards.   AS 15.10.120

Federally certified updates to the ballot tabulation software (GEMS) is uploaded to the GEMS computer in Director's Office and the Regional offices.

Division of Elections employee programs election parameters using the GEMS software. Once programming commences, there are no software updates allowed.

Functionality testing is performed on each piece of equipment to ensure the equipment is in proper working order.

Alaska vendor prints official ballots and test ballots once election parameters are programmed.

Election parameters are downloaded onto Accu-Vote memory cards for each precinct and for absentee and questioned ballots.

AS 15.20.900

1. Printer prepares two logic and accuracy test ballot sets for each house district. The end results from both sets will be in opposite order.

2. Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board performs the logic and accuracy test on each memory card that will be used during the election using the prepared test ballots.

3. Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board verifies the results from each memory card's logic and accuracy test match the pre-determined results from the test ballots and certifies the memory card for election use. Once certified, no modifications to GEMS are made.

4. If the logic and accuracy test was successful, the Bi-Partisan State Ballot Reivew Board seals the memory cards and test ballots into marked envelopes for each district.

5. Memory cards and test ballots are sent to Regional Election Supervisors.

1. Election Supervisors present sealed memory cards and test ballots to Bi-Partisan Regional Accu-Vote Board or Accu-Vote Coordinators. Bi-Partisan Regional Accu-Vote Board or Coordinators performs logic and accuracy test on each precinct memory card that will be used in the election. The Bi-Partisan Regional Accu-Vote Board verifies the test results match the pre-determined test results which will be in opposite order from the results of the Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board test.

2. RAB places the memory card in election mode. Touch screen memory cards are locked in the touch screen unit. Optical scan memory cards are sealed in the unit with a numbered seal. The seal number and unit serial number are recorded on the logic and accuracy report log.

AS 15.20.900   6 AAC 25.030   6 AAC 25.045

1. Ballot counting equipment is received by the Bi-Partisan Precinct Election Board.

2. Before polls open on Election Day, election board turns on equipment and prints election results to verify all are zero.

3. When polls close, the election board ends the election on the equipment. Election board prints election results and transmits the results via telephone.

4. Memory card, printed results, and equipment are returned to the Division of Elections.

6 AAC 25.030

1. Precinct materials are returned to Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board for use during election certification.

2. Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board compares the ballot statement for each precinct and verifies the number of voters voting in each precinct matches the number of ballots cast on the equipment. Any discrepancies are noted.

3. Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board verifies the number of absentee and questioned ballots counted matches the number on the absentee and questioned ballot audit reports.

AS 15.15.370   AS 15.15.440

Before certifying the election, Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board performs a hand-count verification of 5% of the ballots cast in each house district to verify accuracy of the electronic counting. If there is more than a 1% discrepancy in the results certified by the election board and the results of the hand-count, all ballots for the district must be recounted by hand.

AS 15.15.430